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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 ZAGREB 00467

SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5-PMA/J2I//  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ZAGREB 000467

SIPDIS

VIENNA ALSO FOR EMBASSY BOSNIA

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [HR](#) [PHUM](#) [HR](#) [BK](#)

SUBJECT: TFSROL: THE MEDIA WAR: CROAT-MUSLIM  
NAME-CALLING

1. (U) THIS EMBASSY CONTINUES TO NOTE THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL MEDIA IN HEIGHTENING ETHNIC TENSIONS. GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CROATIAN TV (HTV) ON SATURDAY, JAN. 29, BROADCAST TWO UNSCHEDULED DOCUMENTARIES BACK-TO-BACK IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EVENING NEWS. THE FIRST WAS A TWENTY MINUTE FILM CALLED "THE ROAD TO  
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PAGE 03 ZAGREB 00467 01 OF 02 021626Z  
CENTRAL BOSNIA" AND THE SECOND WAS A LONGER FEATURE CALLED "THE CHRONOLOGY OF MUSLIM WAR CRIMES AGAINST CROATS IN B-H." THE EVENING MOVIE WAS DELAYED AN HOUR IN ORDER TO AIR THESE DOCUMENTARIES. THE TV SPECIALS WERE NOT ON THE DAILY TV SCHEDULE BUT HAD BEEN WELL ADVERTISED DURING THE DAY ON HTV. AS THE TITLES INDICATE, THEY FOCUSED ON MUSLIM MISDEEDS IN CENTRAL B-H. BOTH DOCUMENTARIES APPEARED HASTILY PUT TOGETHER, AND WERE POORLY PRODUCED. NEITHER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A NARRATED SCRIPT AND BOTH CONSISTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OF AMATEUR FOOTAGE AND TAPED INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL BOSNIAN CROATS DESCRIBING MUSLIM ATROCITIES. THERE WAS LITTLE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED AS TO THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE EVENTS DESCRIBED.

2. (U) "THE ROAD TO CENTRAL BOSNIA" INCLUDED INTERVIEWS WITH CROAT RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL BOSNIA (ALL EXPRESSING FEAR OF MUSLIM FORCES) AND CROAT SOLDIERS. THE OVERALL MESSAGE WAS "THE ENEMY IS COMING AND WE ARE PREPARED." "THE CHRONOLOGY OF WAR CRIMES" WAS MORE POWERFUL WITH GRAPHIC PICTURES OF CORPSES AND WEeping SURVIVORS, MOSTLY WOMEN. IN ALL CASES, MUSLIMS WERE NAMED AS THE PERPETRATORS OF THE MASSACRES. MOST OF THE FOOTAGE CLEARLY DATED FROM THE FALL OR BEFORE.

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3. (C) ONE EMBARRASSED PROFESSIONAL TV JOURNALIST COMPLAINED TO OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER THAT THIS LINE OF TV PROGRAMMING WAS DIRECTED BY THE HEAD OF HTV, ANTON VRDOLJAK. VRDOLJAK IS A HIGHLY UNPOPULAR, BUT INFLUENTIAL, MEMBER OF THE RULING PARTY AND THE CROATIAN PARLIAMENT. ACCORDING TO THE JOURNALIST, THE  
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PAGE 04 ZAGREB 00467 01 OF 02 021626Z  
PROGRAMMING CHIEF AT HTV WAS AFRAID OF VRDOLJAK AND WOULD NEVER RESIST WHAT THE "BIG MAN" DIRECTED.

4. (U) THESE TV BROADCASTS CONTRAST TO THOSE IN THE AUTUMN WHICH DEPICTED GRAPHICALLY (USING CNN FOOTAGE) STARVING MUSLIMS IN THE HVO-RUN DETENTION CAMPS AND THE HVO'S DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD BRIDGE IN MOSTAR. HTV HAS ALSO AIRED SHOWS WITH SURPRISINGLY CANDID CRITICISM FROM OPPOSITION LEADERS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S B-H POLICY. THUS, THESE CRUDE PROPAGANDIST EFFORTS REPRESENT A BACKWARD STEP FOR HTV, AS WELL AS A SIGN OF A DEGENERATING POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT.

15. (C) ANXIETY AMONG MUSLIM RESIDENTS OF ZAGREB WAS EXPRESSED BY THE WIFE OF A LEADING MUSLIM HUMANITARIAN AID WORKER WHO IS ALSO A PROFESSIONAL. SHE DECLINED AN INVITATION FOR A PRESTIGIOUS USIA VISITORS' PROGRAM BECAUSE OF FEAR THAT HER EMPLOYER WOULD FIRE HER IF SHE WAS ABSENT FROM HER JOB. OBVIOUSLY AGITATED AND FRUSTRATED SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD BEEN WARNED FOUR TIMES

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PAGE 01 ZAGREB 00467 02 OF 02 021626Z  
ACTION SS-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	C-01	OASY-00	DOEE-00
	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	RPCS-01	SCT-03
	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	STR-01	TRSE-00
	T-00	RPE-01	SNIS-00	NISC-02	/049W		

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O 021620Z FEB 94  
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0729  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ISP//  
USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ4/ECJ5/ECPOLAD//  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//DO/LG/XP/IN/POLAD//  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE//J3/J4/J5/POLAD//  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2/N22//  
COMSIXTHFLT NAPLES IT//N2//  
USIA WASHDC 4220  
USEC BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY TIRANA  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
497IG AMHS BOLLING AFB DC//INAGE//  
HQ JTF PP NAPLES IT//CA/POLAD//  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ZAGREB 00467 02 OF 02 021626Z  
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THAT HER PERFORMANCE WAS BEING CLOSELY MONITORED. SHE SAID THAT FINDING A NEW JOB AS A MUSLIM IN CROATIA

WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD REPORTS OF GRAFFITI SAYING "MUSLIMS GET OUT" BEING SCRAWLED IN ENGLISH ON THE DOORS OF MUSLIMS' APARTMENTS.

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PAGE 03                    ZAGREB 00467 02 OF 02 021626Z

16. (U) AT THE SAME TIME, THE B-H GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO  
BEGUN NAME-CALLING. IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, AS SEEN IN  
FBIS REPORTS, RADIO SARAJEVO HAS BEGUN REFERRING TO  
BOSNIAN CROATS AS "USTASHA." OFFICIAL B-H GOVERNMENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEGUN USING THE TERM. THE  
DAILY "REVIEW OF MAJOR EVENTS" PREPARED BY THE B-H  
FOREIGN MINISTRY AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE BOSNIAN EMBASSY  
IN ZAGREB NOW REFERS TO CROAT FORCES AS USTASHA.

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